



ASIAN SPECIES ACTION PARTNERSHIP



**STRATEGY
2018-2023**

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In 2018, we stand at a crossroads in species conservation.

At the time of writing, there are 195 ASAP species. These are freshwater and land vertebrate species in Southeast Asia that are listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. This number is expected to increase, especially for freshwater fishes and reptiles, as many of these species are still being assessed for their conservation status. Much of this worrying trend is driven by an explosion in illegal trade and catastrophic habitat loss.

However, there is also cause for hope. All Southeast Asian Governments are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, through which they have agreed to prevent extinctions of known threatened species by 2020 (Aichi Biodiversity Target 12). Businesses and civil society are taking their responsibilities to nature more seriously than ever before.

We remain on the brink of an extinction crisis, and we must act now if we are to turn things around. This is the reason that ASAP was formed. There are many innovative, well-placed and excellent organisations delivering conservation programmes, research and political engagement. In order to halt species extinctions, collaboration is absolutely essential. ASAP does not duplicate the work of others, but creates opportunities to collaborate to achieve common goals.

Our priorities over the course of this strategy are to put a spotlight on the species on the brink of extinction. We will provide support to organisations delivering species conservation, strengthening their project management skills so that every species gets the attention it deserves. Finally, we will direct funding towards the species that need it the most, which are often viewed as lacking charisma and left neglected.

There are a plethora of reasons for doing this, but the bottom line is that ASAP asserts the intrinsic right of each species to exist".

Simon Stuart, Chair of the ASAP Governing Council

SPECIES ON THE BRINK

Southeast Asia is globally important for biodiversity, but has high levels of threatened species and among the world's fastest recent rates of habitat loss. Combined with over-exploitation of wildlife, these are major drivers of species population declines and extirpations in the region.

Averting species extinctions is now widely recognised as an important component to maintaining effective ecosystem function and human well-being. Governments in Southeast Asia have committed to improving the status of biodiversity and specifically averting species extinctions through the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), especially Aichi Target 12.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (14 and 15 in particular) also explicitly highlight the need to halt the loss of biodiversity, and conserve and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

The need for focused and determined action to avoid species extinctions in Southeast Asia has never been more urgent than it is now.

Biodiversity loss
is occurring at an
unprecedented scale
and current conservation
efforts in the region are
not close to addressing
this sufficiently



The Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP) was formed in recognition of the need to mobilise resources to minimise the number of species extinctions.

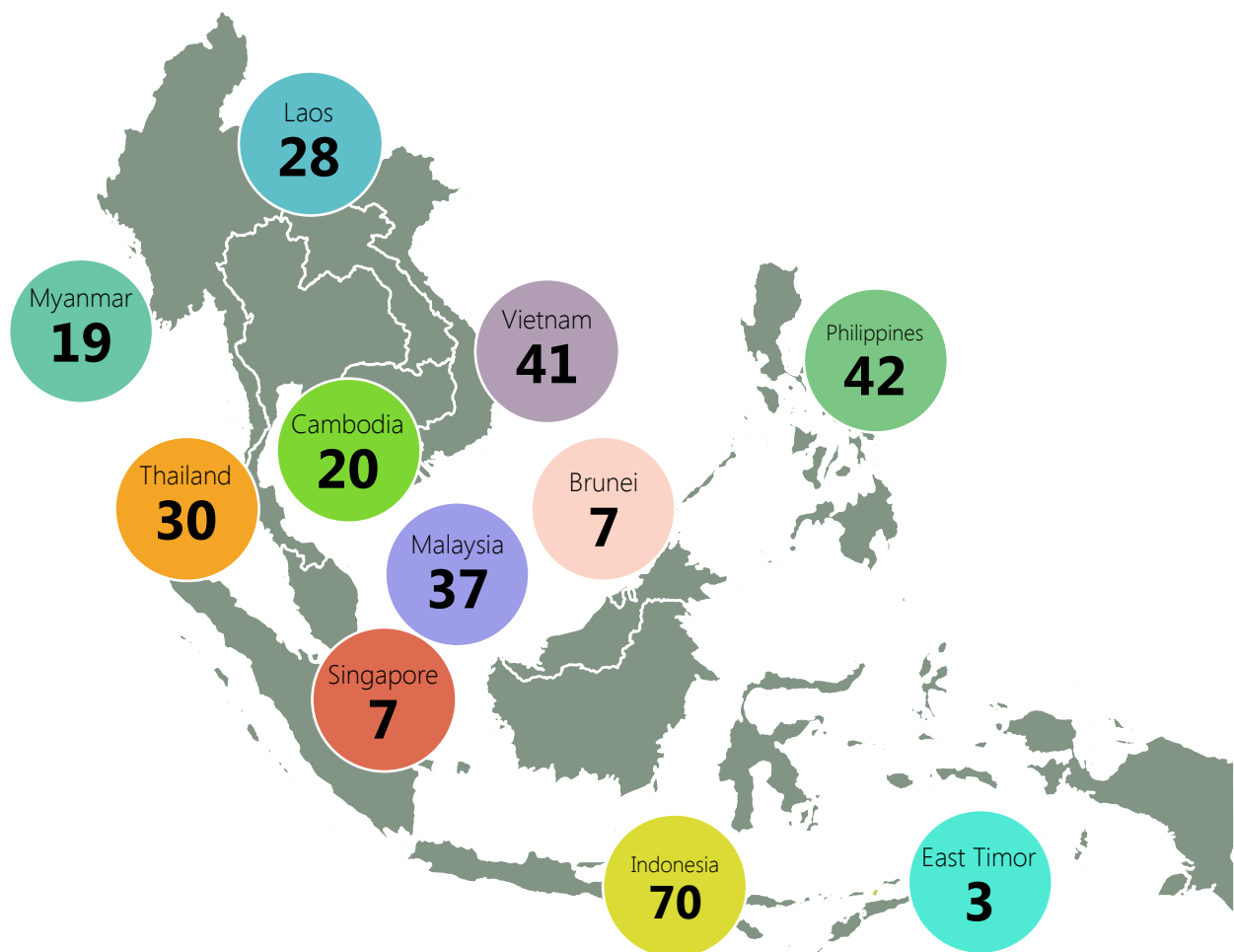
ASAP is an alliance of conservation organisations with the collective aim of focusing urgent conservation attention on the freshwater and land vertebrate species in Southeast Asia at the highest risk of extinction.

Focusing much-needed attention to halt the loss of the most threatened species will be an important step in preventing species loss that is imminent in the region.

ASAP is convened by the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) to bring together organisations to focus attention on a critical region that, without more serious conservation intervention and immediate action, is likely to see the demise of much of its unique biodiversity.

It is an emergency call with a species-specific response to mobilise support where it is urgently needed, and catalyse conservation action for species recovery.

NUMBER OF ASAP SPECIES PER COUNTRY



ASAP focuses attention on the species most at risk of extinction according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. As of November 2018, there were 195 species that can be categorised as ASAP species.

195
ASAP species

WHAT IS AN ASAP SPECIES?

Mammal, fish, amphibian,
bird or reptile



Found in
Southeast Asia



Lives on land or in
freshwater



Listed as Critically
Endangered



The number of ASAP species is sure to increase with intensifying threats worsening the status of many species. Furthermore, the region's reptiles and fish have not yet been assessed comprehensively for the IUCN Red List.

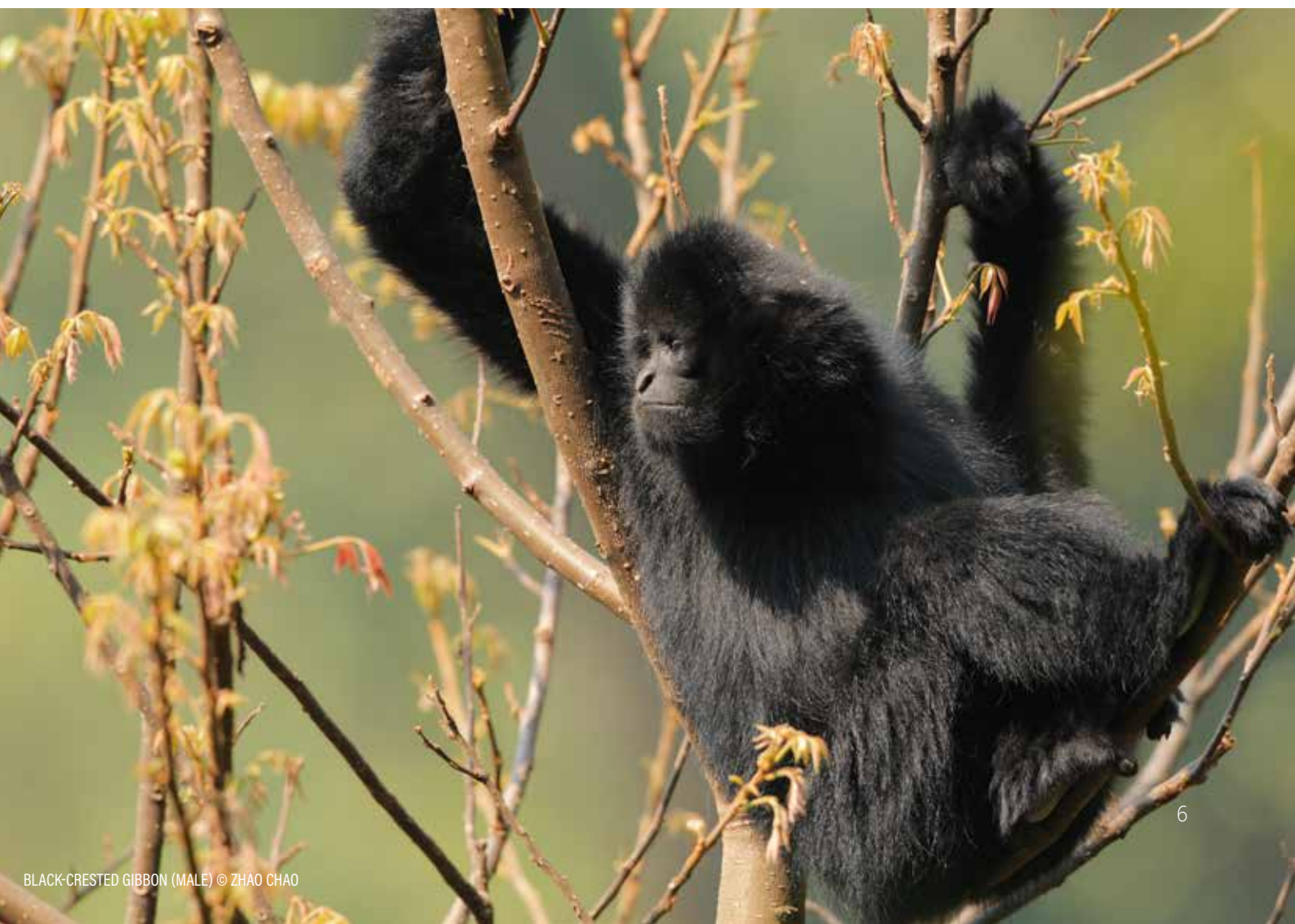
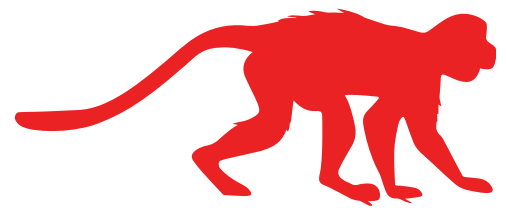
A GLOBAL CONSERVATION PRIORITY

Southeast Asia is extremely rich in biodiversity, with the region falling within four biodiversity hotspots: Indo-Burma, Sundaland, Wallacea, and the Philippines, with high levels of species richness and endemism¹. The region has a high proportion of country-endemic bird and mammal species^{2 3}.

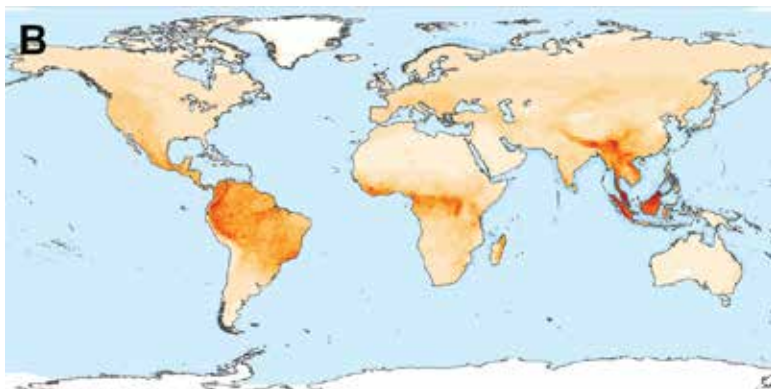
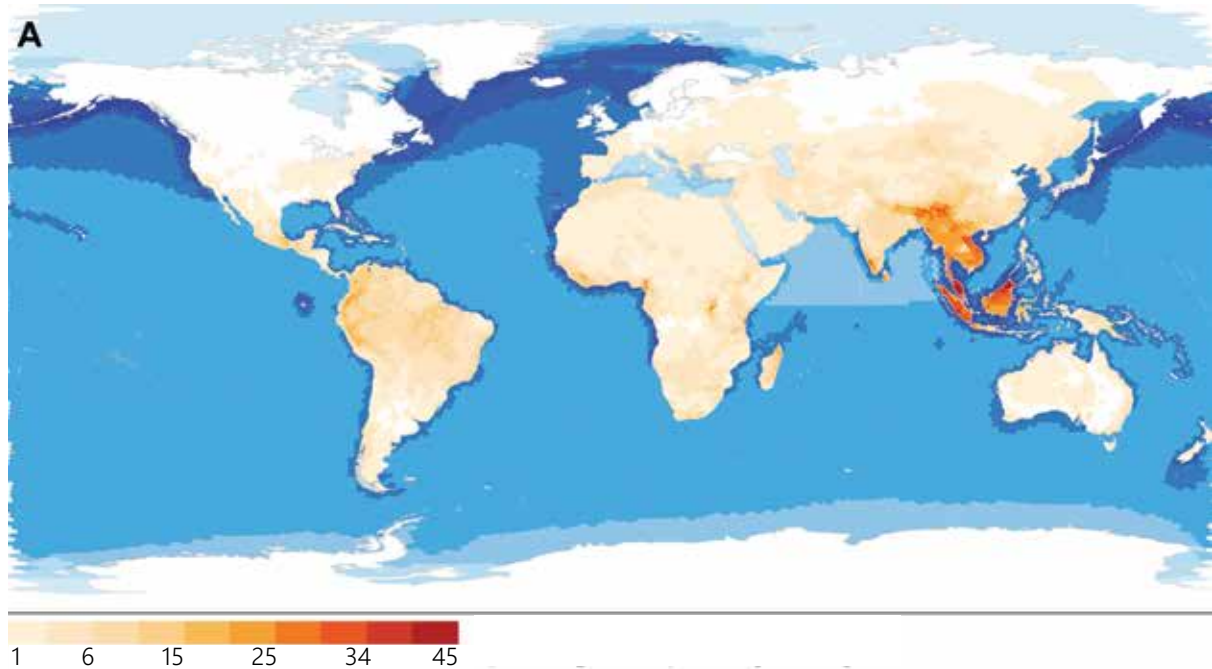
However, species in the region are also associated with high levels of threat; most taxonomic groups so far studied are more threatened in Southeast Asia than in other similarly sized regions, with higher proportions of vascular plants, reptiles, birds and mammals listed as globally threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Among land mammals, globally threatened species are concentrated in South and Southeast Asia (see page 7).

This region has among the world's fastest recent rates of habitat loss, and has seen an explosion in the demand for wildlife and their products. As a result, an unparalleled high number of Southeast Asian species face a serious risk of extinction³.

79% of South and Southeast Asian primate species are threatened with extinction⁴

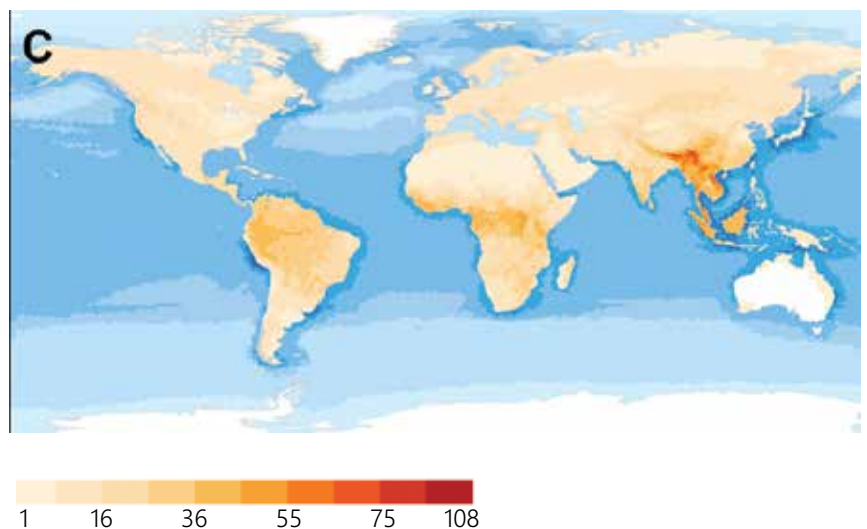


GLOBAL PATTERNS OF THREAT FOR MAMMALS



(A) Number of globally threatened species (Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered). Number of species affected by (B) habitat loss; (C) harvesting.

Source: J. Schipper *et al.*, *Science* **322**, 230 (2008) with permission from AAAS.



HABITAT LOSS

Southeast Asia has an extremely high human population. Rapid economic development in the region has led to large-scale forest loss through conversion, fragmentation and degradation, particularly in the lowlands.

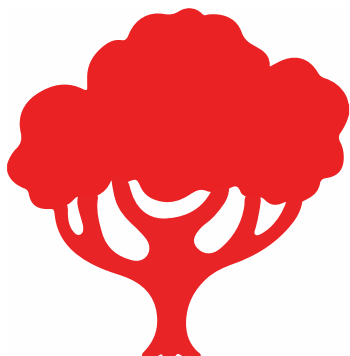
Southeast Asia has a higher annual rate of deforestation than Meso-America, South America or sub-Saharan Africa². The past few decades have seen massive forest loss in Indonesia, Malaysia and southern (Sundaic) Thailand to agriculture (oil palm, rubber, and pulp and paper plantations), and more recently from the growing demand for biofuels.

The Philippines, as the region's most densely populated large country, supports more severely

threatened endemic species than any other country in the world. It has lost the highest proportion of forest in Southeast Asia with over 93% of its original forest cover being converted³.

In Indonesia, 46% of original forest cover remained in 2015 (as estimated by Forest Watch Indonesia), while other natural habitats, such as grasslands and wetlands, have faced larger losses.

Mining, both for underground minerals and of limestone outcrops for cement, is also a driver of extinctions and biodiversity loss in Southeast Asia⁵.



Less than 10%
of Southeast
Asia's forest
is under
some form of
protection

The Cebu Flowerpecker

Dense human population and pressure from development has led to serious impacts on biodiversity in Southeast Asia. This can be illustrated by the Cebu Flowerpecker *Dicaeum quadricolor*, a bird endemic to the island of Cebu in the Philippines.

The species has an extremely small, severely fragmented range due to extensive forest clearance for agriculture. It was feared extinct close to the end of the 20th Century due to the almost complete deforestation of the island. Cebu retains barely 0.03% of its original forest cover⁶.

Although the Cebu Flowerpecker was rediscovered in 1992, lack of habitat has hindered recovery. The remaining habitat is difficult to enter and not suitable for agriculture, which has slowed decline. The most recent population estimate is of approximately 100 individuals, but despite serious searches, the species has only been confirmed at one site in recent years.

HABITAT LOSS



Even more so than land species, those found in freshwater are threatened by habitat change, degradation and fragmentation.

Conversion of wetlands to agriculture, (particularly rice farming), alteration of water-flow, water abstraction, pollution, and invasive species have all had a serious impact on these species, and continue to do so.

It is estimated that 80% of Southeast Asian wetlands are currently threatened with continued degradation and loss of wetland ecosystems⁵, and more than 80% of Asia's rivers are considered to be 'in poor health' due to dams and pollution⁷.

More dams are planned in Southeast Asia than any other part of the world, with severe impacts on fishes, including on species whose migratory routes will be blocked. If all planned dams are completed, migratory fish biomass could decrease by as much as 70%^{8,9}.

The deterioration of rivers in Southeast Asia increases risk of fish extinctions, and as fisheries-based livelihoods are jeopardised, pressures are likely to increase on land habitats to provide alternative food sources. In addition, many of the Critically Endangered fishes in Southeast Asia are endemics with small geographic ranges, often restricted to single lakes or short stretches of rivers or streams.



UNSUSTAINABLE EXPLOITATION

Overharvest is a major threat to many vertebrate species in the region. A growing demand for wildlife and their products has led to intense hunting for the international wildlife trade, and local subsistence consumption continues unabated. Commercial-scale exploitation of wildlife to meet the escalating global demand for wildlife products is considered the foremost driver of declines of many species in Southeast Asia, particularly among mammals and reptiles.

More recently, the capture of birds, particularly in Indonesia, for the songbird trade, has caused serious declines in many species.

Trapping of local species in the Sundaland is more pronounced than in other regions. As populations dwindle, there is a diversification of species being captured for trade.

Trade in wildlife products from Southeast Asia includes live captures for the pet trade, various body parts for enhancing social standing such as luxury ornamental products, meats, and for traditional medicine. This includes a wide variety of taxa, for example the recent explosion in trade for Helmeted Hornbill *Rhinoplax vigil* casques, and for pangolin *Manis* parts, now recognised as the world's most widely trafficked group of mammals.

Unsustainable wildlife exploitation is further compounded by loopholes in policy and legislative frameworks, as well as limited law enforcement. Much of this trade contravenes national laws and international treaties such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The illegal trade within and from Southeast Asia for the pet trade,

especially for birds, reptiles and mammals, is amongst the highest globally¹⁰. This demand has driven many species to the edge of extinction e.g. Javan Green Magpie *Cissa thalassina*. Restricted-range and rare species are in particularly high demand which can result in their disappearance in the wild. The Roti Island Snake-necked Turtle *Chelodina mccordi* was described only in 1994 and was declared commercially extinct by 2000 due to trade¹¹.

The region has limited practice in effectively managing protected areas, resulting in the empty forest syndrome¹², and there are few places where harvest-sensitive wildlife is secure and conserved. Many of Asia's critical protected areas do not have the staff capacity to patrol effectively¹³, which allows continued illegal hunting of many species.

61% of Southeast Asian protected areas have limited to non-existent structures for anti-poaching enforcement



ASAP SPECIES RECOVERY

The current conservation business-as-usual model allows a very high risk of extinctions of ASAP species. Combatting overharvest, with its need of changing the world's buying habits, and the development of effective and functioning enforcement and protected area networks, are vital long-term measures, but there is an urgency to effect change now.

Many species in Southeast Asia are now so rare that they simply cannot afford to wait until the general conservation measures are working successfully. In the interim, strategic interventions focused on key populations of the most threatened species are needed. Targeted in situ and ex situ actions for the recovery of species on the brink of extinction are needed to rebuild populations.

This has been successfully demonstrated with the wild Tiger *Panthera tigris* population in Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary, Thailand. The Government of Thailand established an intensive patrolling system in response to the severe threat from poaching. Intensified patrolling has successfully reduced poaching and has been correlated with improvement in Tiger survival, including that of cubs into adulthood.

The use of high-impact interventions and monitoring systems has now turned Huai Kha Khaeng into one of the most progressive and systematic Tiger and prey protection and management systems in the region¹⁴.

The stunning Bali Myna *Leucopsar rothschildi* is endemic to Bali. The bird is a victim of the cage bird trade, where its pure white feathers make it highly valued. Poaching, and also habitat loss, have reduced its population and range drastically.

The wild population continues to persist because of the release of captive-bred birds. Signs from the reintroduced colonies on Nusa Penida and in Bali Barat National Park are promising, with both populations breeding and apparently increasing¹⁸.

To address the core issue of poaching, conservation initiatives couple community engagement with breeding. Locals from a Balinese village are being trained to breed, release and protect the birds.

There are a number of ASAP species receiving innovative and vital ex situ approaches. At this time, no Southeast Asian species has been downgraded from Critically Endangered through such approaches; but in time, such successes will be recorded.



OVERCOMING BARRIERS

Attention given to conservation needs of ASAP species is currently far from sufficient, but there are many opportunities for overcoming the barriers and challenges for effective recovery and conservation. The recovery of ASAP species would be greatly facilitated through the following improvements in the overall conservation context:

> **Increased financial resources dedicated for ASAP species conservation** – Current funding available for ASAP species conservation is very limited and primarily directed to a few of the more charismatic species such as orangutans *Pongo* and rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae). The lack of funding available for the remaining ASAP species at the scale needed has resulted in limited focused conservation effort for nearly all ASAP species, and constrained the ability to change the fate of many species.

> **Strengthening regional capacity and leadership in conservation** – Conservationists need the necessary skills to design and implement effective conservation solutions aimed at the recovery and conservation of threatened species. Limited support and opportunity is currently available in the region to deal with complex conservation challenges and to develop relevant skills to manage and implement conservation projects effectively, such as successful grant writing, project and budget management, local stakeholder and community engagement.



> **Improved awareness**

and understanding – Key stakeholders including donors, conservation practitioners, governments, and the general public across the world are often unaware of the scale of the problem and the urgent need to tackle impending extinctions in the region. Attention is often focused on high profile, but less imminently threatened species, such as the Asian Elephant *Elephas maximus* and Tiger *Panthera tigris*.

> **Increased political will** –

Across Southeast Asia, political commitment is needed to provide the necessary support to avert extinctions and promote species recovery. The vast majority of protected areas in the region require more effective management, improved governance, strengthened legislation, and increased enforcement (both on the ground and within the judiciary systems) to deter illegal activities and address the various other current challenges.

> **Filling key knowledge**

gaps of ASAP species – many ASAP species are known from only a few sightings, museum specimens or market surveys, often from several decades ago. For example, the Jackson's bubble-nest frog *Philautus jacobsoni* is known only from the holotype and has not been recorded for over 90 years. Rück's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis ruckii* is known from two specimens collected in 1917 and 1918 in lowland northern Sumatra, Indonesia.

For the vast majority of ASAP species there is limited knowledge of current distribution, population and ecology. While direct conservation action remains the priority, for some ASAP species, surveys to confirm their continued existence and to provide an informed basis to guide decision-making and identify urgent conservation actions may be helpful. Examples include Emma's Giant Rat *Uromys emmae*, last recorded in 1946; and the Sulu Bleeding-heart *Gallicolumba menagei*, known from two specimens taken in 1891, with the only evidence of its continued existence deriving from unconfirmed local reports in 1995.



A full-page background image showing a vast, green rice field in the foreground. In the middle ground, several tall palm trees stand against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The scene is captured in a wide-angle shot, emphasizing the expanse of the landscape.

STRATEGY

STRATEGIC PLAN

The following strategic plan outlines how ASAP aims to address challenges, draw attention to the urgent needs of these species, and most importantly catalyse action for ASAP species recovery. ASAP brings stakeholders together for collective action for the conservation of ASAP species believing that synergy and joint action are more effective than working in isolation.

VISION

Species extinctions in Southeast Asia have been averted and wild populations are secure and thriving across their natural range

10-YEAR GOAL

By 2028, 100 ASAP species will have benefited from effective conservation action

STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

Catalysing conservation action

Create an enabling environment to catalyse effective conservation action

Increasing financial resources

Increase support available to initiate and scale-up conservation action for ASAP species

Building capacity

Strengthen regional conservation capacity and leadership for ASAP species conservation

Raising the profile

Raise the profile of ASAP species, Partners and the ASAP initiative for targeted conservation action of ASAP species

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION 1:

Create an enabling environment to catalyse effective conservation action

Rationale

There is an urgent need to prioritise conservation action for ASAP species, in particular because many ASAP species are not the focus of any conservation attention. Current action requires scaling up; more organisations and individuals should be encouraged to work on ASAP species conservation.

The scope for increased conservation action for all ASAP species is enormous, as is initiating action for those currently neglected.

Certain species groups, such as freshwater fishes, are particularly neglected despite them making up nearly a third of all ASAP species as of 2018. Catalysing action for such neglected species will be a priority.

Objective: By 2023, conservation action is catalysed and underway for at least 50 ASAP species

Outcome 1:	Outcome 2:	Outcome 3:	Outcome 4:
Action for individual species and groups of species is catalysed and supported with particular emphasis on neglected species	Action is catalysed for ASAP species threatened by trade and which are currently neglected by conservation efforts	Greater commitment and engagement is shown by ex situ institutions to meet the needs of ASAP species requiring ex situ conservation efforts	The ASAP Partnership is recognised as a knowledgeable information exchange for conservation action maximising the input of relevant knowledge bodies, supporting ASAP Partners and other stakeholders, and thereby enhancing ASAP species conservation

Plan of action

This strategic intervention will create an environment which will catalyse conservation of ASAP species leading to greater and more effective conservation outcomes, by:

- Supporting and promoting information exchange;
- Identifying gaps in conservation attention and creating opportunities for targeted conservation action;
- Collating and tracking information on ASAP species;
- Calling for the conservation status of species in the region to be kept up to date.

In particular, special attention will be placed on freshwater fishes over the next five years to ensure that greater conservation attention is given to their plight. ASAP will coordinate with key institutions and partners to focus and support priority conservation actions on the ground.

Promoting species recovery will be a priority and will be supported by the ASAP Ex Situ Working Group. This will catalyse ex situ conservation for species for which conventional in-the-field approaches alone will not successfully reduce extinction

risk. Catalysing actions to halt population declines will also be a focus, including measures to address those species impacted by trade.

ASAP will continue to support partners in their work on ASAP species and engage with IUCN SSC, species specialist groups and other knowledge bodies. Priority actions for ASAP species will be communicated across networks, with a focus on promoting action.

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION 2:

Increase financial resources available to initiate and scale-up conservation action for ASAP species

Rationale

There is an urgent need to increase financial resources available to support the species most at risk of extinction in Southeast Asia. Most financial resources currently available for species conservation are earmarked for charismatic species, leaving many ASAP species chronically underfunded with little attention given to them by conservation implementers.

Many ASAP Partners struggle to find sufficient funds to support their work, and most donors do not currently prioritise ASAP species needs in their funding strategies. The lack of funding results in few conservation implementers focusing efforts on these species, and seriously impedes the ability to implement effective conservation action at scales appropriate to avert extinctions and promote species recovery.

Objective: By 2023, US\$50million of additional money has been raised as an ASAP Partner-wide initiative for improved conservation of at least 50 ASAP species

Outcome 1

A dedicated Fund is initiated for conservation action for ASAP species catalysing broader participation of donors regionally and worldwide

Outcome 2

Species and Partners benefit from other donor mechanisms and institutional partnerships to advance ASAP species conservation

Plan of action

This strategic intervention addresses the need for reliable, long-term financial support and new sources of funding for ASAP species conservation. ASAP will leverage new funding opportunities with a focus in Singapore and the region, working closely with the Wildlife Reserves Singapore and other strategic partners to increase funding and

conservation activities relevant to ASAP species. ASAP will engage with other organisations and develop strategic partnerships to leverage further funding opportunities and raise funds for ASAP species conservation.

Alongside this, ASAP will continue to engage with the wider donor community to catalyse broader participation in ASAP species conservation. This will

include promoting the need for greater focus on ASAP species conservation from the donor community, supporting priority proposals, and supporting donors with proposal reviews. We will also make connections, advise on priority projects and help identify suitable implementing organisations, or individuals, who can deliver impactful conservation action on the ground.

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION 3:

Strengthen regional conservation capacity and leadership for ASAP species conservation

Objective: By 2023, organisations and conservation implementers have the capacity to implement ASAP species conservation effectively

Outcome 1

Capacity, skills and knowledge in effective organisational management, project design, proposal development and delivery of conservation action improves conservation impact

Outcome 2

ASAP species champions are supported to deliver effective conservation action

Rationale

Limited capacity for running effective conservation projects restrains ASAP species conservation. This applies especially to individuals and small organisations with limited resources, who are more likely to desire improvement in skills such as those needed for raising funds and managing projects, as well as in communication, negotiation, leadership and conflict resolution.

Equipping conservationists with the skills needed to design and implement effective conservation solutions aimed at the recovery and conservation of ASAP species, as well as enhancing overall organisational capacity is essential. Building targeted capacity in countries where ASAP species occur will ensure that support goes directly to the individuals and organisations best placed to implement conservation of threatened species.

Plan of action

This strategic intervention will focus on how best ASAP can support the development of capacity, skills and knowledge for regional conservationists and organisations to improve conservation impact for ASAP species. To identify how ASAP can grow skills and knowledge, a capacity and training needs assessment will be completed focusing on ASAP species conservation. An evaluation of current conservation capacity building and training programmes will be carried out along with organisational capacity and needs in the region to understand current gaps. Based on this, ASAP will develop a strategy for supporting capacity building in the region.

ASAP will engage with capacity building and training providers, as well as organisations with the mandate to improve capacity in the region. We will drive a coalition to improve the ability of local conservationists and species champions to solve conservation problems and advance ASAP species conservation. Alongside this, we will seek to strengthen the institutional capacity of regional organisations dedicated to the conservation of ASAP species.

STRATEGIC INTERVENTION 4:

Raise the profile of ASAP species, Partners and the ASAP initiative for targeted conservation action of ASAP species

Rationale

Low awareness of the status of ASAP species and/or their urgent conservation needs amongst conservation practitioners, donors, governments and the general public is a major barrier to advancing conservation efforts. There is an urgent need to raise the profile of the plight of ASAP species and focus attention on this region to ensure concerted conservation efforts on all fronts for species recovery.

Objective: By 2023, all important stakeholder groups are aware of the urgent need and motivated to take direct conservation action for ASAP species

Outcome 1:

ASAP has strong relationships with the donor community to advance ASAP species conservation

Outcome 2:

ASAP species are appropriately recognised under the ASEAN framework and Southeast Asian governments are committed to ASAP species conservation

Outcome 3:

ASAP builds relationships with implementers to advance ASAP species conservation.

Outcome 4:

ASAP reaches its full potential to conserve ASAP species through improved visibility of ASAP Partners, ASAP species conservation and the Partnership as a whole

Outcome 5:

Other significant stakeholder groups are engaged to deliver their full unique roles in conserving ASAP species

Plan of action

This strategic intervention will improve awareness and understanding of the need for urgent action and support amongst key stakeholders, and mobilise political will to avert species extinctions in the region. ASAP's communications strategy will identify priority target audiences with whom to engage: those whom we believe will have the largest impact on ASAP species conservation and recovery.

Moving beyond raising awareness, we aim to motivate key stakeholders to take direct action to avert extinctions and prioritise conservation needs of the most threatened species in the region. ASAP will work with conservation implementers to encourage greater inclusion of ASAP species conservation actions within their strategies and objectives. This applies especially

to neglected species and with organisations that are working in landscapes and localities important for ASAP species. ASAP will have a particular focus on working with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) governments to determine how ASAP species can be incorporated into their national priorities.

In parallel with these efforts, ASAP recognises the importance of highlighting the current efforts for ASAP species and the work that many ASAP Partners are currently implementing. ASAP is committed to showcasing this to a wider audience and supporting ASAP Partners in communicating and demonstrating what can be achieved under the right conditions.

A scenic landscape featuring a calm river in the foreground, traditional wooden houses with thatched roofs along the riverbank, and misty mountains in the background under a soft, hazy sky. Green foliage is visible in the lower right corner.

GOVERNANCE

GOVERNING COUNCIL

The ASAP Governing Council provides strategic direction to the operation and structure of the Partnership and oversight of the Secretariat. The Governing Council comprises individuals representing ASAP Partners who meet two out of the three following criteria: a) they contribute to the secretariat costs (cash/in kind); b) they have technical and/or practical expertise relevant to conserving ASAP species; and c) they raise the profile of ASAP species and have input into relevant policies.

The Governing Council operates on a rotational system with ordinary Governing Council members being able to sit on the Council for a maximum of four years. The Governing Council includes at least two national NGOs from Southeast Asia. IUCN SSC, the IUCN Asia Regional Office and the Secretariat Host institution (currently Wildlife Reserves Singapore) have automatic, non-rotating, seats on the Governing Council.

As of December 2018, the Governing Council comprises of representatives from:



**IUCN Species
Survival Commission**



**IUCN Asia Regional
Office**



**Wildlife Reserves
Singapore**



**European
Association of Zoos
& Aquariums**



**GLOBAL
WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**

**Global Wildlife
Conservation**

TRAFFIC
the wildlife trade monitoring network

TRAFFIC



GreenViet



**Wildlife
Conservation
Society**



**Bogor Agricultural
University**

Wildlife Reserves Singapore has hosted and supported the secretariat since 2016.



SECRETARIAT

The ASAP Secretariat is responsible for facilitating and supporting the work of the Partnership through implementing the strategy. The Secretariat is presently made up of four staff: a full-time Secretariat Director, a full-time Partnerships and Communications Manager, a part-time Species Advisor and a part-time Strategic Advisor.

NERISSA CHAO

Director

Nerissa has been leading the ASAP Secretariat since 2016. She comes to the team with 15 years of experience in field conservation, developing and implementing programmes in Gabon, Rwanda and Kenya. Nerissa has worked for both international and local NGOs, within formal protected areas and on community managed land. Previously to ASAP, she worked in Vietnam overseeing conservation projects in the Mekong Delta.

MADHU RAO

Strategic Advisor

Madhu led on the initial creation and coordination of ASAP. She continues to be an active advisor and plays a key role in developing the partnership. Alongside this, she is a Senior Advisor and Representative of Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in Singapore. Madhu has a broad experience of conservation project delivery, and international protected area and wildlife policy.

VICKI GUTHRIE

Partnerships & Communications Manager

Vicki has worked for a number of environmental NGOs, focusing on development and partnership building. Her focus at ASAP is on raising the profile of neglected ASAP species, and creating conservation opportunities across the Partnership.

WILL DUCKWORTH

Species Advisor

Will is a freelance wildlife surveyor and conservation advisor. He specialises in birds, large mammals and their habitats in Southeast Asia. Will has been involved with ASAP since the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria Southeast Asia Campaign of 2011-2013.

PARTNERSHIPS

ASAP is an alliance of organisations bringing together those with a primary or significant purpose of biodiversity conservation and an interest in implementing and/or funding conservation action for ASAP species.

Conservation action may include species conservation efforts, general habitat protection and restoration, mitigation of broad threats etc. Partnership is open to field conservation implementers, donors, academic and research institutions, ex situ facilities that focus on conservation breeding or conservation awareness, zoo associations and others as relevant, from charitable, government and private sectors.

Organisations that sign up to ASAP are known as ASAP Partners. All Partners have a mandate for implementing or financially supporting conservation for ASAP species within their natural range or for ex situ conservation needs, and a commitment to working in partnership with others.

At the end of 2018, 80 organisations had signed up as ASAP Partners, with over half of these being based in the ASAP region. Nine of these organisations are represented on the ASAP Governing Council.



At the end of
2018, there
were 80 ASAP
Partners

IUCN SSC Network Partners

All IUCN SSC Specialist Groups and Red List Authorities that include ASAP species are formally associated with ASAP through the IUCN SSC. There are currently 23 IUCN SSC Specialist Groups and two stand-alone Red List Authorities that have ASAP species within their remit.

IUCN SSC Stand-alone Red List Authorities

- BirdLife International
- Snake and Lizard

IUCN SSC Specialist Groups

- Amphibian
- Asian Rhino
- Asian Songbird Trade
- Asian Wild Cattle
- Australasian Marsupial and Monotreme
- Bat
- Bustard
- Crocodile
- Deer
- Freshwater Fish

- Galliformes
- Heron
- Hornbill
- Marine Turtle
- Pangolin
- Primate
- Shark
- Stork, Ibis and Spoonbill
- Small Mammal
- Threatened Waterfowl
- Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle
- Vulture
- Wild Pig

REFERENCES & CREDITS



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